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and they seem to have been so nearly intermediate between the different classes that it may be impossible to fix their place with certainty, either from tracks or skeletons. It is interesting to find that these two sources of evidence illustrate and corroborate each other.

9. The question whether the hindmost impression on the outer toe in the fossil footmarks was made by a tarsal bone, or some process on the tarso-metatarsal, has only just engaged my attention. It may have a most important bearing on the whole subject. But I am not yet prepared to present any conclusions.

Dr. B. A. Gould made a communication on the diurnal change in the position of the azimuthal arms of the transit-instrument along the Atlantic coast of the United States.

Professor Hitchcock, in this connection, recounted several observations showing a singular pressure on the earth's surface from the east, as exhibited in the pushing up of the strata in a quarry at Portland, Connecticut, and at Rutland, Vermont. And he suggested that this might account for certain peculiar rumbling sounds in the earth heard at times in Connecticut.

Professor Parsons discoursed upon the resemblances between the German and English Jury and the analogous institutions of Greece and Rome.

Five hundred and nineteenth Meeting.

March 10, 1863. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from General A. A. Humphreys, dated Camp near Falmouth, Virginia, in acknowledgment of the announcement of his election as an Associate Fellow.

Also, from Captain Henry L. Abbot, U. S. Engineers, in acknowledgment of his election as a Fellow of the Academy.

Dr. Charles Pickering propounded the inquiry whether the irregularity in the eclipses of Jupiter's satellites may not be due to the difference between real and apparent time. To which Professor Peirce returned a negative response.

Dr. Beck and Professor Washburn commented upon the Jury system, as to its origin, character, and relations to the analogous institutions in ancient Greece and Rome.

Mr. Folsom pointed out the origin and history of the line,

"Flos rubet, inque auras frustra disperdit odorem,"

which Gray had been thought by some to have plagiarized.

Five hundred and twentieth Meeting.

April 14, 1863. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

The Corresponding Secretary read various letters relative to the exchanges of the Academy.

Also a letter from Professor Christopher Hansteen of Christiania, Norway, in acknowledgment of his election as a Foreign Honorary Member.

Mr. Alexander Agassiz read a paper, of which the following is a summary: —

On the Embryology of Asteracanthion berylinus Ag. and a species allied to A. rubens M. T. Asteracanthion pallidus Ag.; by A. AGASSIZ.

The following account of the development of our common star-fishes is intended to appear in full, with many plates, in the fifth volume of the Contributions to the Natural History of the United States of Prof. Agassiz. A part of the material for the investigation was obtained by artificial fecundation, and the rest by fishing for it with the dip-net during the greater part of the summer of 1862.

The larvæ of our common star-fishes are found floating in large numbers at night among those long trains of cast-off skins of barnacles collected by the tide, which appear to provide them, as well as many of our small crustacea, hydroids, and annellids, with food during the time when they swim freely about. They seem to be nocturnal, as I have only found here and there a single specimen when fishing for them in the daytime under exactly the same circumstances of tide and wind.

The adult larvæ move about quite rapidly by means of the cilia of their vibratile chord. Their position in the water is much more con-